

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A supporting and fastening arrangement for contact wires comprising a one-piece elongate support portion which can be fixed by means of suitable fastening means to a mast, a pipe, or a house wall, and a coupling element for connecting the support portion to a bracing tube, wherein the support portion has a central first opening and/or recess which is provided to co-operate with a matching connecting portion of the coupling element and which is adapted to make a connection which can be plugged in and released and which is secured in respect of rotation and which is fixed when placed under a tensile and/or pressure loading, and

wherein the coupling element has a pivot portion fitted thereto and connected to a counterpart fork coupling element which is adapted for connecting to a bracing tube, and wherein the coupling element is in the form of a receiving holder for the support portion and has a receiving portion for insertion and positively locking retention of the support portion, and the coupling element is in the form of a yoke-shaped holder which to provide the receiving portion embraces the support portion in a U-shape in the region of the first opening and is adapted to provide the pivot portion for receiving the coupling element counterpart fork at ~~open leg ends~~ first and second leg portions of the holder.

2. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion has a cross section which at least in a portion-wise manner is of a double-T-shaped configuration and which has on both sides of a front and a rearward longitudinal slot a pair of side portions with an edge configuration which is rounded in the direction in which the longitudinal slots extend.

3. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that at the end, at least at one end, the support portion has a slot forming a second opening which is disposed in the plane of the first opening.

4. (previously amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that in the region of the first opening the support portion has a recess which extends perpendicularly to the direction in which the support portion extends and which is such that in a condition of connection to the coupling element a portion of the coupling element engages into the recess and additionally fixes the coupling element.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the receiving portion and the pivot portion are in one piece.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised ~~by a U-shaped fork element which is such that,~~

~~with a central connecting portion, it can be~~ in that said counterpart fork coupling element is fitted non-rotatably into longitudinal slots of the support portion and can also be fixed by means of a sleeve element to a tube end.

9. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 8 characterised in that free legs of the ~~fork element~~ counterpart fork coupling element are of such dimensions that in an assembled condition they project through the first opening and/or the longitudinal slots and non-rotatably fix the fork element when under a tensile loading relative to the support portion.

10. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised by a bar element which is such that it can be non-rotatably fitted into longitudinal slots of the support portion and can also be fixed by means of a sleeve element to a tube end.

11. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 10 characterised in that a bar portion of the bar element is of such dimensions that in an assembled condition it projects through the first opening and/or the longitudinal slots and non-rotatably fixes the bar element when under a tensile loading relative to the support portion.

12. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion is adapted for jointly cooperating with at least one fork element.

13. (currently amended) An arrangement as set forth in claim 8 characterised in that the ~~fork element~~ counterpart fork coupling element and/or the bar element has at the bottom a female screwthread.

14. (previously presented) A coupling element, in particular for use in a supporting and fastening arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised by a yoke-shaped pivot portion which is adapted for connection to a counterpart coupling portion and which has a recess which is formed parallel to a pivot axis of the pivot portion and which is in opposite relationship to the counterpart coupling portion and which is such that the coupling element can be fixed thereby to a mast, pipe support in a direction extending parallel to the pivot axis, wherein formed adjacent to the pivot portion is at least one fastening portion which is to be attached in one-piece relationship, for such a fixing.

15. (previously presented) An arrangement as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the support portion is adapted for jointly cooperating with at least one bar element.